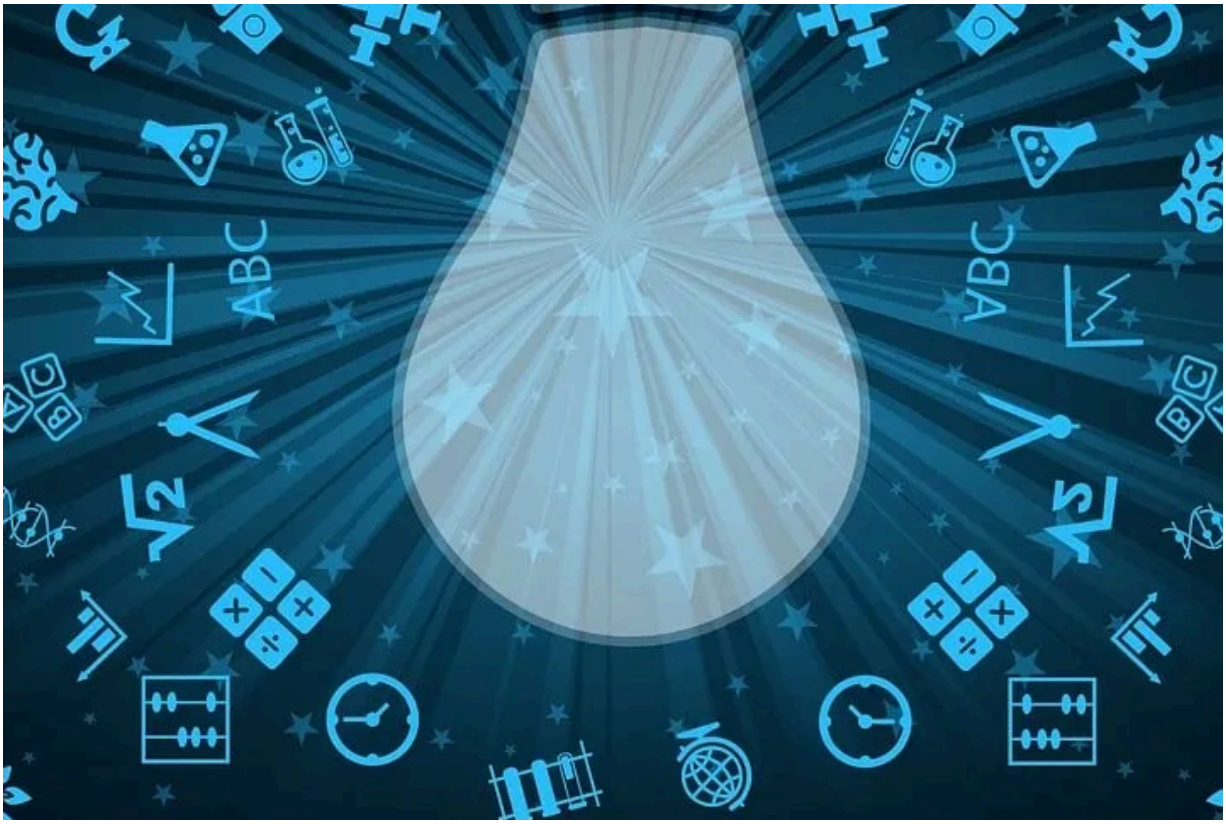
WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

DID YOU KNOW — NEWS

Intergenerational and intercultural happenings at the Jenks Center

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

October 28, 2023 . 9:25 AM — 3 min read



The Jenks Center continues to be a locus of activity, with recent vi
levels rivaling those before 2020. With increased attendance, ad
programs and service are offered to seniors and their friends. This

Subscribe

includes opportunities for building community through intergenerational and intercultural activities.

The 2020 Census reveals that Winchester continues to witness an increase of residents. This includes a growing number of older residents as well as Mandarin speaking families (and other families where English is not the first language). This census data confirms the findings of the Town's community needs assessment in 2017 to 2018, which the Jenks Center (the Council on Aging, in particular) supported. Data from the assessment provided very specific information of the needs and wishes of Winchester's older adults as well as documentation of the growing Mandarin speaking population that includes older adults.

The COA responded to the data of the assessment by successfully seeking funding from the Cummings Foundation to improve cultural competency at the Jenks through the development of intergenerational programs for the Jenks and the entire community of Winchester. In addition, funding was sought for the offering of ESL/American Citizenship classes for older Mandarin speaking adults through the aid of The Winchester School of Chinese Culture. The award of this funding continues to provide Winchester with many rewards and benefits, thanks to the Cummings Foundation's generosity.

This September, The Winchester School of Chinese Culture began its fourth year of ESL/American Citizen classes including one held at the Jenks and the other classes virtually serving up to 75 seniors. Despite the impact of Covid-19, WSCC has assisted the Jenks with a number of initiatives that benefit all of the Town's seniors. Prior to Covid, WSCC provided many entertaining and educational activities at the Jenks including cooking classes, celebrations of Chinese New Year and more.

However, since reopening to the public last year, the Jenks has b
hub of many cross-cultural activities. Ping-pong tables and pickleball have

Subscribe

drawn a significant crowd many days a week. Formal Chinese dancing with music along with Mahjong and cards also occur throughout the week.

An excellent example of a specific activity serving multicultural interests was this September's weekly Calligraphy Art classes with Instructor, Jianwu Chen. He describes calligraphy as "an art that nurtures your spirit, cultivates your heart and vision, nurtures the concept of aesthetics and diligence." This beginner Chinese calligraphy class provided an opportunity for seniors of all backgrounds to learn something creative and new, in a warm and friendly environment. Wei Han, a class participant and member of the COA's Board of Advisors, commented, "We have a great time in this class. Everyone loves writing with brushes and moving their fingers and hand in a different way. When we learned a two-stroke word, Ren, meaning people or a person, I reminded my classmates to think about 'wax-on and wax-off' when writing the character!"

Also this year, Winchester High School's Mandarin Chinese classes (35 students) visited the Jenks. They met and talked to Chinese seniors, all enjoying the opportunity to practice conversation. The interaction between the adults learning English and the students learning Chinese was both entertaining and welcome! After practicing conversations i they played ping-pong and kicked shuttlecock (Jianzi) together.

Subscribe

A planned activity for November includes a bilingual guided group tour to Boston College Museum's Himalayan Art Exhibitions on Wed. 11/8. The docent at the museum speaks both English and Mandarin. See link for additional information. https://mcmullenmuseum.bc.edu/exhibitions/himalayan/

The Jenks is very proud of its ability to welcome all of its neighbors and will continue its efforts to develop and implement additional relevant and exciting programs. Learn more about all that the Jenks offers at www.jenkscenter.org!

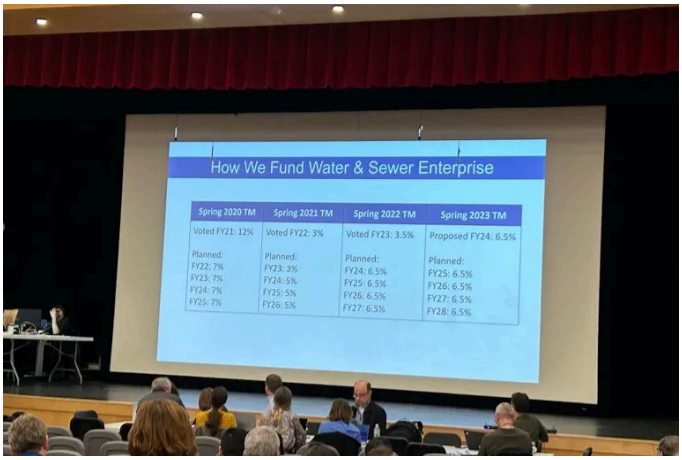
Related

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW: What is an Override?

In Massachusetts, property tax overrides are generally governed by Proposition 2 ½, a state law (M.G.L. Ch. 59, § 21C) that limits the amount of revenue a municipality may raise from property taxes (limit is based on the total of all categories of real property and business owned personal property)

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER
February 12, 2026



DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW: What is Representative Town Meeting?

When Winchester News launched, the site did several stories on how certain departments and entities in the community worked. One of those was Town Meeting. Believe it or not, there are still some folks in town who aren't aware that Winchester has a representative Town Meeting or that they

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF
TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER
January 13, 2026

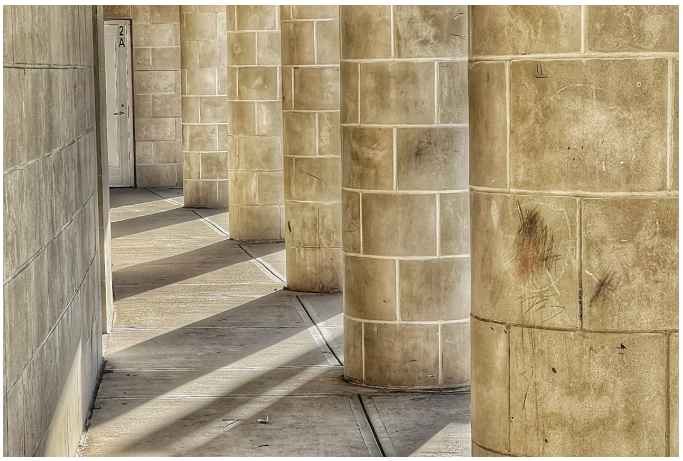
Subscribe

DID YOU KNOW

READER QUESTION: What can I recycle in Winchester?

A reader recently asked Winchester News what can be recycled in the community. In Arlington, where trash is picked up weekly, black plastic isn't allowed in the recycle bins, but in Winchester it's a different story. "Black plastic makes up a fairly small percentage of the recyclable material

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER
August 14, 2024



NEWS

How well do you know Winchester?

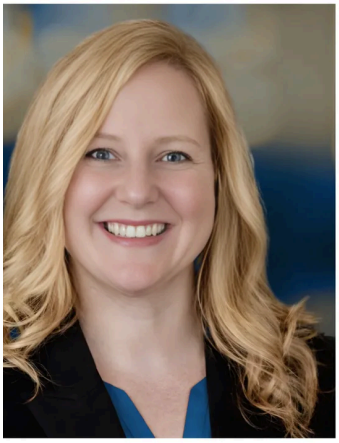
By Joyce Westner Jan. 4, 2024 Third in the series. Retired photographer Frank Siteman has taken photos of places downtown, and your job is to guess where they were taken. Send an email to editor@winchesternews.org if you know the answer. Last week we had two winners--George Wood and

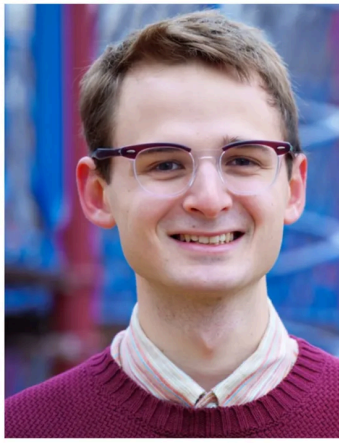
JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER
January 4, 2024

Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change





NEWS

Winchester School C candidates bring contrasting

Subscribe

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

Subscribe

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe